

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 /053 W
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R 211314Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7778
INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 03085

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR CANADA'S PILOTS SET STRIKE DATE

1. AIR CANADA'S 1500 PILOTS VOTED JUNE 19 TO STRIKE
AGAINST THE COMPANY BEGINNING 0300 JUNE 26 UNLESS PRESENTLY
STALLED CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS ARE RESOLVED BEFORE THAT
DATE.
2. THE BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS AROSE OVER AIR CANADA'S
ACTION LAST YEAR WHICH REMOVED THE RIGHT PILOTS HAD
PREVIOUSLY HAD TO TRAVEL FIRST CLASS WHEN DEAD HEADING
BETWEEN ASSIGNMENTS. THAT PRIVILEGE WAS COVERED NOT IN THE
PREVIOUS CONTRACT BUT IN A LETTER OF INTENT ISSUED BY THE
COMPANY. THE PILOTS OBJECT TO THE FACT THAT AIR CANADA
CHANGED THE RULE WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND FEAR THAT ACTION
ESTABLISHED A PRECEDENT FOR THE COMPANY TO TAKE UNILATERAL
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ACTION JEOPARDIZING OTHER MATTERS WHICH HAD BEEN AGREED
OUTSIDE THE CONTRACT.

3. IF, IN FACT, THE STRIKE TAKES PLACE, DOMESTIC TRANS-
PORTATION WOULD BE SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED AT THE HEIGHT OF
THE TOURIST SEASON. OTHER DOMESTIC AIR CARRIERS AS WELL
AS BUS AND TRAIN OPERATORS WOULD HAVE LITTLE SPARE

CAPACITY TO FILL IN THE VOID LEFT BY CANCELLATION OF AIR CANADA'S DOMESTIC FLIGHTS. INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IS EXPECTED TO BE MUCH LESS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED SINCE THE FOREIGN CARRIERS WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO TAKE ON THE EXTRA TRAFFIC. IN ADDITION, SOME TRANS-CANADA TRAFFIC COULD BE EXPECTED TO SHIFT SOUTH OF THE BORDER TO USE US SERVICES.

4. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN HAVE SAID THEY HAVE NO PRESENT PLANS TO INTERVENE TO PREVENT THE THREATENED STRIKE BY PARLIAMENTARY ACTION. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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